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COMICS
FEBRUARY



X-MEN
DELUXE

UP
AGAINST
EXCALIBUR!



DIRECT EDITION
Scanned By Toker The Kid

01211



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SKROCE
LA ROSA



UIR ISLAND, OFF
THE NORTHWEST
COAST OF SCOTLAND...

IT'S THE FOREMOST GENETIC RESEARCH CENTER INTO HUMAN MUTATIONS IN THE WORLD, RUN BY NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING GENETICIST, DOCTOR MOIRA MACGAGGERT. THE BOY HOPES SHE HAS ANSWERS FOR HIM.

HIS NAME IS NATE GREY,
AND HE IS A MUTANT,
POSSIBLY THE MOST
POWERFUL PSIONIC ON
THE PLANET.

HE COMES FROM ANOTHER
TIMELINE, UNLIKE THIS ONE,
AND HE IS STILL VERY
CONFUSED ABOUT THIS NEW
WORLD HE FINDS HIMSELF ON -
AND ABOUT HIS POWERS.

A WOMAN HE MET
RECENTLY -- THE MUTANT,
ROGUE -- SUGGESTED
THAT Dr. MacTAGGERT
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS.

BUT THE ANSWERS
YOU GET ARE NOT
ALWAYS THE
ANSWERS YOU SEEK

NOR IS EVERY
WELCOME YOU
GET A WARM
ONE.

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

the X-MEN and
EXCALIBUR



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OW!
FELT THAT
RIGHT
THROUGH
THE TK
SHIELD...!



NICELY SET
UP, BRITANNIC.
ALLOW ME TO
FINISH THIS.

OKAY,
THAT CUTS IT! I
WASN'T LOOKING
FOR A FIGHT, BUT IF
YOU PEOPLE WANT
TO ATTACK
ME...

...I'M
GAME!

SPARKOW



Huh?!

HI THERE.

I'M SHADOWCAT.

A GIRL--
GOING RIGHT
THROUGH ME!

NOW,
NIGHTCRAWLER!



DANKE,
KITCHEN. YOU
DISTRACTED HIM
LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO 'PORT
IN AND KNOCK
HIM OUT!

TEAMWORK --
A LOVELY
THING.

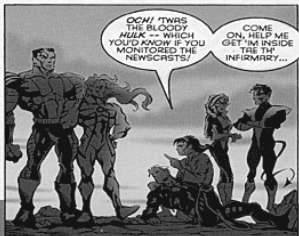


OCH!
ARE YE ALL
MAD?!

THIS
IS THE LAD
THAT ROGUE RANG
ME UP ABOUT... TH'
ONE CHARLES
WANTS OUR
HELP WITH!



WHAT
MADE YE ALL
DECIDE TAE
ATTACK TH'
POOR
LAD?!





ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE AN APOLOGY I WAS THINKIN' OF GIVIN'.

THERE'S A LOT O' TENSION IN TH' WORLD RIGHT NOW AND EXCALIBUR... OVER-REACTED.

LOOK, WOULD YE NOT SIT DOWN? YE'RE IN NO DANGER HERE.



ALL RIGHT.

ARE YOU DOCTOR MACTAGGERT?

YES, I SUSPECT YOU'RE NATE.

ROGUE CALLED ME ABOUT YE BUT I HAD NO TIME T'TELL THE OTHERS. MY FAULT REALLY.



NOW, TELL ME, PLEASE -- HOW CAN MUIR ISLAND HELP YE?



I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THIS LEGACY VIRUS-- THE ONE THAT'S KILLING MUTANTS... AND... SOMETIMES... I HAVE THESE PAINFUL HEADACHES... MY POWERS SORT OF BLINK ON AND OFF...

...OR I HAVE TROUBLE CONTROLLING THEM... AND I DON'T KNOW...

WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT. FIRST THINGS FIRST.

YE MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER TRAVELING ALL THIS WAY...



ELSEWHERE...

A MAN OF THE SHADOWS CALLS UPON THE DILIGENCE OF ANOTHER. HE, THE MAD GENETICIST AND LONGTIME FOE OF THE X-MEN, THE STRANGE MANIPULATOR KNOWN AS

SINISTER



THRENOODY, ARE YOU LISTENING?

SHE, HIS RELUCTANT SERVANT.

AS ALWAYS, SIR, AT YOUR SERVICE.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS... "NATE GREY"?

I... NOTHING, SIR.

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD THIS NAME...



REALLY.

WELL, WE WILL PREPARE A SEARCH IN EARNEST WHEN I RETURN.

THIS BEING WILL BE FOUND.



HE KNOWS, OR AT LEAST HE SUSPECTS.

I DON'T CARE. HE WON'T ACT... YET.

I WILL. I'LL BE FREE! AND YOU, NATE GREY... YOU ARE MY TICKET TO FREEDOM...

...AND MY BEST BET TO STAY THAT WAY!

• SEE PANEL #25 FOR MORE OF SINISTER'S FLYING SUSPICIONS ABOUT NATE - Joyce



IT WAS THE SUNSET
THAT MOIRA BROUGHT
THE YOUNG MAN TO SEE --

-- BUT IT'S THE YOUNG
WOMAN SITTING IN THE
SUNSET THAT DRAWS
HIM FROM MOIRA'S SIDE.

HELLO.

MIND
IF I JOIN
YOU?

OH/
NO! I
MEAN...
PLEASE...
THAT IS...
I'M...

RAHNE
SINCLAIR,
MOIRA SPOKE
OF YOU
EARLIER. YOU'RE
UNDER HER
GUARDIANSHIP

THIS IS
A BEAUTIFUL
SPOT.

BUT
IT'S A
FAVORITE
PLACE OF
YOURS. AM I
RIGHT?

Oh...
AYE. MOIRA
WOULD BRING
ME HERE SOME-
TIMES, WHEN
I WAS
YOUNGER...

... TELL
ME ALL SORTS
O' ANCIENT TALES --
SHIPWRECKS AN' LOST
TREASURES.

FUNNY
HOW I COULD
BELIEVE IN
THOSE STORIES
BACK THEN.

I COULD
CLOSE MY EYES
SOMETIMES AND
I WOULD SEE IT...
IN MY
MIND...

... I WOULD
IMAGINE WHAT
IT'D BE LIKE
T'DISCOVER
SUCH LOST
TREASURES.

WOULD
YOU STILL
LIKE
TO?





BUT
THIS I SWEAR
TO YOU... I WILL
GIVE IT MY VERY
BEST... FOR AS
LONG AS I
HAVE...

...THOUGH
I BLEAK MY
HEART IN TH'
DOIN' OF
IT...

FROM WITHIN HE
CONCENTRATES --
FOCUSES ON THE
GREAT BODY OF
WATER.

WITH A GESTURE, THE
SEA IS FORCED BACK.

AS THEY DESCEND
BETWEEN
THE MASSIVE
OCEAN WALLS
HE IS REMINDED
OF ANOTHER
YOUNG WOMAN
HE ONCE HELD
CLOSE --

-- THE ONLY
PERSON HE
REGARDED
AS A FRIEND
ON THIS
WORLD -- THE
ONLY ONE HE
HAS TRUSTED
THUS FAR --
MADELYNE
PRYOR.

YE'RE
BLEEDIN'!

NO
BIG DEAL.
HAPPENS SOME-
TIMES WHEN I USE
MY POWER. I'M
OKAY.

JUST LOOK,
RAHNE. THERE'S
YOUR LOST
SHIP.

AND
ALL...

...IS
LOST...

...TO
WONDER.

AND THE EVENING STEALS IN, ALONG WITH DOUBT. AS MOIRA MACTAGGERT FINISHES SIFTING THROUGH THE DATA...

... SHE HAS COME TO ONE DISAPPOINTING CONCLUSION...

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, CHARLES, TH' BOY'S GOING T' DIE.

'TIS EXACTLY WHAT ALL OF MY READINGS INDICATE.

MAYBE --
MAYBE HE LIVES UNTIL HE'S 21, ALTHOUGH I'M NO' GUARANTEEING THAT WITH THE STRESS HE PUTS ON HIS BODY!

BUT THEN HIS OWN POWER EATS HIM ALIVE AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR I OR ANYONE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

ALL THE MORE REASON WE HAVE TO REACH OUT TO HIM, HELP GUIDE HIM NOW.

AND I CANNOT. EVENTS PRECLUDE HIM TRUSTING ME FOR NOW.

IT MUST BE YOU.

I KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING... I KNOW YOUR PAIN OVER PROTEUS... PHOENIX... YOUR OWN HEALTH.

IF I HAD ANY OTHER CHOICE, BELIEVE ME, I WOULD MAKE IT!

I KNOW, CHARLES... I KNOW. 'TIS WHAT WE ARE BRINGING US TO THIS PATH.

ALL TH' SAME. 'TIS A DAMNED PATH, BUT VERY WELL I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

THIS IS THE WAY THEY
DID NOT WANT HIM TO
GO — THE PATH THEY
DIDN'T WANT HIM TO
TAKE. AND, IF HE KNEW
THEM BETTER, TRUSTED
THEM MORE, HE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN CONTENT.



WHO
ARE THEY
HIDING DOWN
HERE?



I
FELT ANOTHER
MIND IN THERE,
TRAPPED.



Hmmmm...
LASERS... MOTION
DETECTORS. THEY
REALLY DON'T WANT
ANYONE DOWN
HERE.

TK'LL
FIX THAT.



BEND THE
BEAMS AROUND
MY BODY AND NO
ALARMS'LL GO
OFF.



BUT THE ALARMS GO
OFF IN NATE'S MIND.
FOR A MOMENT, HE'S
NOT SEEING THE ROW
OF EMPTY CAGES.

HE SEES THE MUTANT
HOLDING PENS FROM
APOCALYPSE'S WORLD
THAT STILL HAUNT HIS
DREAMS —



-- ROBBING HIM
OF ANY HOPE FOR
PEACEFUL SLEEP.

AND HIS HEART
SICKENS.





...AND THEY
EXPLODE
WITHIN HIM LIKE
BOMBSHELLS!

NO!

NO!

NATHAN,
GIVE ME A
CHANCE TO
EXPLAIN...!

EXPLAIN
WHAT?!

THAT YOU'VE BEEN
TALKING TO XAVIER?!
REPORTING TO
HIM?!

THAT
YOU'RE AFRAID OF
ME? THAT EVERYONE
ON THE ISLAND IS IN
ON IT WITH
YOU?

OR
THAT YOU'RE
NOW SAYING I'M
GOING TO
DIE --

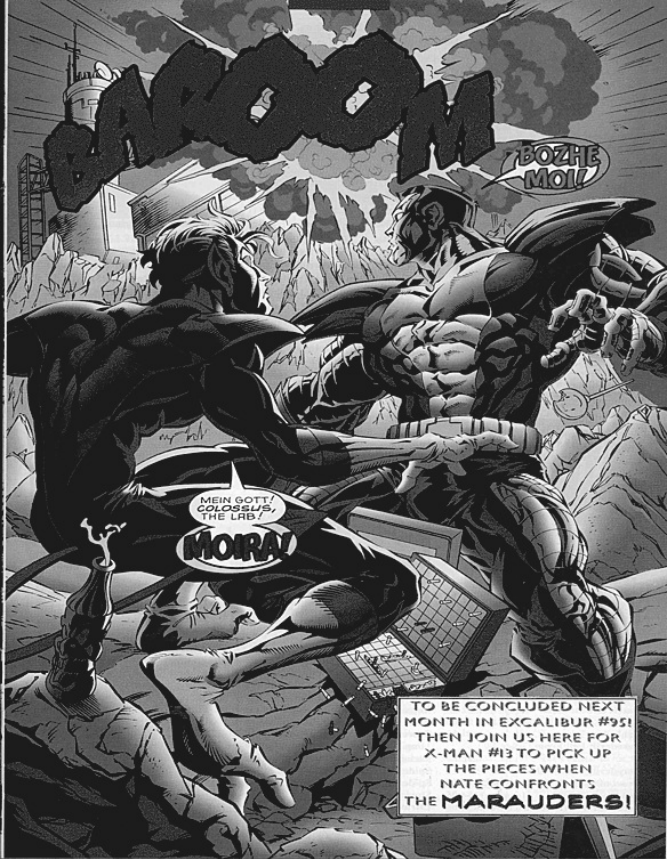
-- THAT
MY OWN POWER
IS DESTROYING
ME!

I
THOUGHT YOU
SAID I WAS GOING
TO LIVE! YOU
BETRAYED
ME!

I TOLD YE ONLY THAT
YE DINNAR HAVE THE
LEGACY VIRUS! THIS
IS SOMETHING
ELSE...!

NATE,
YE MUST BELIEVE
ME! YE OUGHT
ONLY A GLIMPSE
INTHE MUSH
MIND!

NATE, YE
MUSTN'T LOSE
CONTROL...!



BOOM!

BOZHE
MOI!

MEIN GOTT!
COLOSSUS,
THE LAB!

MOIRA!

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT
MONTH IN EXCALIBUR #95!
THEN JOIN US HERE FOR
X-MAN #13 TO PICK UP
THE PIECES WHEN
NATE CONFRONTS
THE **MARAUDERS!**

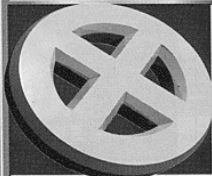
THE CHOSEN ONE RETURNS

In 1994, we caught a glimpse into a far-flung, post-Apocalyptic future in the popular **ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS & PHOENIX Limited Series**. This year, in the 4-issue **ASKANI'SON Limited Series**, we return to that world, two-thousand years down the road, and pick up where we left off in the life of one very special young man: Nathan Dayspring Summers — the boy who would someday become *Cable*!

Original **CYCLOPS & PHOENIX** writer **Scott Lobdell** and artist **Gene Ha** are joined by the scripting talents of **Jeph Loeb** (of **X-FORCE** and **CABLE** fame), as well as inker **Andrew Pepoy**, letterer **Richard Starkings** and colorist **Kevin Somers** for this sojourn into the adolescence of one of Marvel's mightiest and mysterious mutants.

So strap on your time-travel gear and join us as we bodylide into the future for **ASKANI'SON**, another classic **X-MEN** epic!

DECEMBER 1996



FACTS

WELCOME TO MARRIED LIFE... HOPE YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE!

They said it could never be done — heck, they said it *should* never be done — but gosh darn it, it has been done! That's right, folks...the ever-so-lusted-after-yet-never-to-be-tamed **Scott Lobdell** has been lassoed! So, take your mitts offa him, ladies...get on October 14th, 1995. Scott and his sweetheart (and fellow Marvelite), the lovely **Laura Blecker**, went off and got themselves hitched till death do they part!

The charming ceremony took place in the original St. Patrick's cathedral, down in the heart of New York's "Little Italy," and was followed by a rollicking good time aboard a nighttime cruise around the glittering Big Apple. And despite the torrential downpour that threatened to devastate the happy couple's joyous occasion, a good time was certainly had by all in attendance.

As soon as the last guest shoveled in that final piece of wedding cake, and the festivities came to an official end, these two lovebirds flew the coop and took off for the wilds of Africa to enjoy a two-week safari and other blissful honeymoon activities!

So now, as Scott and Laura return from their vacation, let's all join hands and wish the happy couple many years of marital bliss together! And most importantly, let's wish Laura the best of luck, because not only has Scott become a permanent part of the poor girl's life...but so have the **X-Men**!

CALLING ALL PHILADELPHIANS!

Hold onto yer hats, kids, 'cuz **X-MEN** artist **Andy Kubert** is gonna be comin' at'cha for the **Philadelphia Comic Book Spectacular** — at the **Philadelphia Convention Center** — on Sunday, January 14, 1996! You'll see **Andy** perform all sorts of artistic derring-do! He'll draw sketches! He'll forge his brother **Adam Kubert's** signature on comic books he's worked on! Why, he'll even forge **Adam's** signature on comic books that he didn't work on! But most importantly...he'll tell horror stories about working for **Bob Harris**! You don't wanna miss it!

Heck, you might even see new **X-MEN** writer **Mark Waid** there...if yer lucky, that is!

Design by **CHADWICK**

COVER
SHOULDER
ASKANI'SON #1
ART BY
GENE HA &
ANDREW PEPOY

STORM

THE WISH LIST

UNDAUNTED #329

Wolverine and

Archangel teamup with Sorcerer Supreme, Dr. Strange, for a spiritual quest into a mystical underworld to save Psylocke's life!
By Scott Lobdell and Joe Madureira

CABLE #28

Cable's mission in

Genosha comes to an end as he goes toe-to-toe in final combat with the disgusting Sugar Man!
By Jeph Loeb and Willard

GENERATION X #42

It's the return of

Generation X's first — and deadliest — villain — *Emplate*! And this time around, he's not gonna let Penance slip through his greedy, little fingers. And, most importantly...he's not alone!
By Scott Lobdell, Todd Dezago and Tom Grummett

WOLVERINE #98

Wolverine's feral side

may be getting the better of him, but will it drive him to murder some of his closest friends? Find out when we investigate...the murders in *Mojoport*!
By Larry Hama and Ronan Fendoad

EXCALIBUR #94

The "Days Of Future

Tense" storyline begins! Discover the fate of the heroic *Excalibur*, the infamous *Black Air*, and human/mutant relations as we take a different look at another part of the *X-Men's* classic "Days Of Future Past" storyline!
By Warren Ellis and Casey Jones

REACTION #19

The battle between

Force and the evil *Blavatsky* is joined with no quarter asked...and none given! Plus, a major turning point in *House of M* and *Polaris*' relationship that may change them both forever!
By Howard Mackie and Steve Lipton

X-MEN #49

It's a battle royale

between *Bishop* and *Falafel*! Meanwhile, the evil *Scott* walks in the wings, preparing to hatch his sinister schemes against the *X-Men*!
By Scott Lobdell, Mark Waid and Jeff Matsuda

K-FORCE #51

You met her as *Boom*

...you came to know her as *Boomer*...but now that *Tabitha Smith* has had enough of being used and abused and is making her own decisions...you'd better get used to her as *Meltdown*!
By Jeph Loeb and Luciano Lolini

X-MEN #12

When Nate comes face

to face with *Excalibur*, Dr. *Morla Macloggett* makes a shocking discovery about the boy's tragic fate! Will he be able to face the truth? Find out in this very special issue...
By John Ostrander and Steve Skroce

THE NEW X-MEN #1

It's the first appear

ance of the original *Brotherhood Of Evil Mutants* as seen through the eyes of *Magneto's* children — *Quicksilver* and the *Scarlet Witch*!
By Fabian Nicieza and Jan Dusemle

ASHTANON #1 OF 4

The future history of

the *X-Men* continues as young *Nathan Dayspring* begins his journey into adolescence by undertaking a quest to find the last *Can Askani*! The sequel to 1994's popular *Adventures Of Cyclops & Phoenix Limited Series*!
By Scott Lobdell, Jeph Loeb and Gene Ha

STORM #1 OF 4

The *X-Men's* resident

goddess in her first very own limited series! Seeking to find out more about *Gene Nation*, *Storm* makes a discovery that could prove fatal! Guest starring *K-Force's Cable*!
By Warren Ellis and Terry Dodson



THE FANTASTIC FOUR



Bring on
Doc Doom!
Bring on th'
Molecule Man!
Heck, you
can bring
on the
entire
Yancey Street
Gang fer all
I care!
Stretcho's back!
And clobberin'
days are
here again!



PUTTING THE CHARACTER BACK IN COMICS



FORGE™

SABRETOOTH™

MYSTIQUE™

THE NEW X-FACTOR

POLARIS™

SHARD™

WILDCHILD™

MARVEL'S MONTHLY MUTANT MILITIA

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Dear X-Man,

I just loved the way Nate fell to Earth in X-MAN #5. The setting was very cool—Switzerland, mountains, snow (I think you get the picture). It must have been quite a surprise for Nate to come around to this kind of surrounding. Mr. Loeb has done it again, written a fantastic tale for a fantastic character.

You got to feel sorry for that poor truck driver, though. The man helps Nate out of his dire situation and what does he get? Accused of working for Apocalypse. His truck blown up and no doubt he will have a tough time explaining it to his boss. Is it just me that cares about the average people in comics that you people print or are there any more readers out there who do? Yeah, man, just imagine it, a few issues into the future and a mysterious man is hunting down Nate and in the process killing all his newly acquired friends. Who is this villain? It's none other than the Truck-man. Nate's going to regret the day he blew his truck up, that's for sure.

Okay, maybe it's a bit lame, but I've seen people hold a grudge against somebody for less than that, especially in the world of comics. Nate's definitely got a temper and very little control over it and his powers. Maybe Madelyne Pryor will be able to help Nate, just like Forge did. But then again, Sugarman seems pretty determined to get our X-Man, and when there's a will there's a way. It would make for a very interesting story if the Sugarman did get his sticky fingers on Nate. Well, whatever happens I know I won't be let down. Thanks to everyone that works on X-MAN for making such a good comic every month.

Robert Tomlinson
Balders 2
155 34 Nykvarn
SWEDEN

Okay, Robert, we give. Truck-man was going to be X-Man's arch-enemy, but it looks like you caught on to us before his big debut. Oh well, guess we can't surprise everyone all the time. Looks like we'll have to fall back on the evil villainy of the dreaded Locust! (Just kidding!)

Dear X-Man,

Whoa, what is this? Just got my #5 X-MAN. Madelyne Pryor—hello! Wasn't, or should I say isn't she the Goblin Queen, the clone of Jean Grey? The one I thought was dead after the Inferno incident. What's with her? Can you shed some light on her? Now that I got that off my chest, I've got some things to comment on.

Now that Nate has crossed over into this timeline, doesn't that mean that Scott and Jean Summers have four children without even actually having any babies? Let's count them together.

1. Rachel Summers (Phoenix)
2. Nathan Christopher Dayspring Summers (Cable)
3. Stryfe (Cable's clone which makes him their son technically)
4. Nate Grey (X-Man)

That's a lot of kids for not even really having any. The artwork is fantastic and Nate is one fine looking guy. Just look at the picture on page 6 of issue #6. Well, keep up the good work. I also think it's cool that Nate took his mother's last name, or rather, maiden name. Gotta go.

Chris Bachli
(Address withheld by request)

That's some family tree, eh, Chris? You're right, they have a lot of kids for not even actually having any children. But, if we're getting technical here, then let's re-examine each character. It's true that Rachel is the daughter of Jean and Scott, except it's the Jean and Scott from another timeline, not our Jean and Scott.

Now Cable, on the other hand, is the son of Scott and Madelyne from this timeline—and as you already know, Madelyne was a clone of Jean created by Sinister. So technically speaking, Cable is the son of Scott Summers but not Jean Grey and therefore neither is Cable's clone, Stryfe. But it behooves us to point out, Jean did raise Cable as if he was her own son during the ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX limited series, which is currently available as a trade paperback at your local comic shop.

Meanwhile, Nate Grey's exact origin hasn't been revealed. According to Sinister, he was genetically bred from the genes of Scott Summers and Jean Grey. But again, it was the Scott Summers and Jean Grey from this alternate reality, not our current reality. Got it? Phew. Are you as exhausted as we are?

Dear X-MAN,rew,

I've read your comics and I love them. I only have one question. Will Nate have his own super hero team, or will he remain alone? I mean this comic is great, but it would be cool if he had a sidekick or team or something. I'll be happy to hear any answer you have.

Rob Sanchez
4035 Montgomery NE Apt. E-17
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Donald, Nate'll be running into a few characters that you may or may not know in the months to come. Will he be able to set aside his reluctance to trust anyone long enough to make a friend? We hope so 'cause it sure looks like he could use a friend right now.

Dear X-Friends,

I have just read X-MAN #5, and I loved it! Nate is one of the best characters you've ever created. I adore him! But, what will you do with him? Charles Xavier is obviously curious about this strange, new and powerful mind he's felt. And what about the shrew, Madelyne Pryor? I have to admit that I'm basically a newcomer to the X-Arena, but I thought Madelyne bit the dust in the Inferno series? My collection of past X-comics is incomplete, along with my knowledge of continuity. Please, enlighten me. Understand when I say that I hope Nate recognizes Ms. Pryor to be the traitorous she-witch she is.

I do hope you keep Nate around for a long time. I think the reason he's well liked is because of his youth, character, and he's easy to relate to. Oh yeah, don't think I've overlooked the obvious, is it mere coincidence that two of Sinister's creations have been introduced to each other? If you look at the way Madelyne reacted to Sinister's truth in X-MAN #4, you begin to see what they have in common. My question is when and how will Sinister be introduced? Will Xavier find Nate before Nate finds Magneto? Wow, cool plot!

I would also like to address the issue of X-MAN #42. It got my pulse racing and my mind running. It was neat the way you got Holocaust to be "born again" right there on Avalon, Magneto and Exodus's home! Personally, I don't like Holocaust. However, I do absolutely love Exodus! He's the man. I hope he kicks Holocaust's butt from this reality to the next and back again! Exodus has more than enough power to do so, although he does lack experience when compared to Magneto. I love Magneto, too. He's the best! When will you revive him? And how? However you do it, I hope you do it soon. I hope you keep these two, Exodus and Magneto, around for a long time.

By the way, if you were wondering earlier if I have anything against Madelyne Pryor, I do. She had the audacity to challenge Sinister in UNCANNY X-MEN #241. Fool! Of course, Nate did the same; it was kind of different. Even though he's my boy, I didn't like the way he killed Sinister in X-MAN #4. Sinister, Exodus, Magneto, and Nate are the only characters that make reading comics worthwhile—and the awesome art and stories! Who is Nate's parallel self in this world? Is it the baby of Madelyne's, Nathan Christopher Charles Summers, seen and spoken of in X-MEN #241? Or is it Cable? Or doesn't he have one? I would also like to find out about the mysterious Exodus and the enigmatic Sinister. I would like to know more about their background and full extent of their powers. Thank you.

D.J.
(Address withheld by request)

Cable is Nate Grey's counterpart in our reality, DJ, and they're about to come face-to-face, not only with each other, but Exodus as well! And you won't have to wait long because this explosive confrontation is happening this February in CABLE #30 and X-MAN #14. Don't miss it!

Dear X-MAN Crew,

I think you guys have been doing good. I liked Nate the first time I saw him. In the first couple of comics that took place in this world, I liked how Nate battled Rex, but the thing with the evil Beast fighting Nate himself is kind of different. I would think he would send someone like Random because Random would have a better chance against him.

I have a couple of questions and here they are:

1. Is Nate going to join the X-Men or Generation X or what?
2. Where did Madelyne go?
3. Why did Nate come to this world just now and not twenty years ago like the evil Beast and Sugarman?

Well, I guess that's all for now.

Paul Brandenberg
711 S. Harlem
Freeport, IL 61032

Random's kinda busy taking out Havok right now over in X-FACTOR, Paul. But a meeting between Nate and Random does sound cool. In answer to your questions:

1. Neither for the time being.
2. You'll find out next issue.
3. The M Kraan crystal sent him through time as well as space and that's why he landed in our present-day continuity.

To the creators of X-MAN,

Thanks! The new X-Man character is your best idea yet. When I first saw this comic I immediately bought it. Since then, I've been hooked.

X-MAN is the first superhero comic that I've wanted to buy every issue that came out. The fact that he may be the most powerful mutant on Earth thanks to his telekinetic and telepathic powers is an awesome touch, plus the fact that everybody is out to get him because of it.

The drawings are great. And besides a terrific storyline, it has everything else in it that makes it a great comic. I'd say that X-MAN is a five-star comic.

One question, would you people still have made the X-Man if Marvel didn't do the Age of Apocalypse story? I hope you would have created him anyways. He's my fave. Thanks a lot for creating him; he's definitely worthy of being created by Marvel Comics.

Christopher Mahussier
15 Valley View Dr.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
CANADA R2Y 0R5

Actually, Christopher, X-Man was created by Sinister during the Age of Apocalypse storyline. Had that storyline not taken place, sadly enough X-Man would not be here. But fortunately he is here, and you know exactly where to find him every month!

Dear X-Post Facto,

I had my doubts back when you brought Nate into this timeline, but it didn't take you long to convince me that it was a great idea. It was a kick to see Maddie again—I bet she isn't just another clone that Sinister had in storage because that wouldn't explain her X-Men or Havok memories. Please don't let that be all we see of her.

Now about this last issue, #10. At first, I was a little disappointed how it all went down. Then I read it again a few more times and I realized that the beauty of the story was in the contrast between Xavier and Nate. Both are very powerful psi talents, and Nate may even be the more powerful of the two, but it's almost a waste in Nate's case. The power is meaningless and even a liability without the reasoning and intellect which Xavier uses to govern it. In this issue, both Xavier and Nate meet up with strangers who want to help them. Nate's distrust and rashness cause his experience to be a disaster while Xavier makes a new friend and ally and acquires more knowledge.

Nate is just alone and lonely.

Not all of this is Nate's fault. All you have to do is look at the world he is from and his life experiences to see why he behaves this way. That, however, will not change the fact that if he doesn't learn to think first before acting or learn how to trust or at least listen to other people, his story will end maybe even more tragically than Maddie's had previously.

I think maybe the only person who can help Nate get all of his ducks in a row and come to understand himself and this new world he is in is Forge, or maybe (hearts and flowers please) Stryn.

Well, that's my two cents. Keep up with the great storytelling. And make mine Marvel.

Catherine D. Kobasik
111 Hickory Rd.
Mastic Beach, NY 11951

You're correct, Catherine. Nate is definitely in need of some understanding. And judging from this issue, Moira would be the perfect person for him to turn to, except for that last incident in the labs. Hmm...and what will he do now that he knows what his future holds? His road ahead certainly isn't going to be an easy one to travel on.

Dear X-MAN Crew,

I got X-MAN #3, 4, and 5 and X-MEN OMEGA a couple of days ago. I haven't had the chance to get #1 or 2 yet.

I really think it's sad when in X-MAN #3 Forge dies. I felt sorry for Nate. I like the way X-MEN OMEGA ties in with X-MAN #5, when the bombs explode and all the X-Men die. Except for Nate, who came out of that timeline into this one.

I think it's neat how Nate is Cable. Oh, I just

wanted to know if any of the other X-Men were alive after the bombs exploded?

Jason Nielson
1334 San Miguel
Beaumont, CA 92223

The only way to find out is to travel back to the Age of Apocalypse, and you wouldn't want to do that, would ya, Jason?

Dear X-Post Facto,

This letter is in regard to X-MAN. I just wanted to say that X-MAN was my favorite X-Book during the Age of Apocalypse, due to both the great writing and art. The Age of Apocalypse storyline was the best storyline I have read in my first year of reading comic books. I was glad to find out that X-MAN was going to continue as a regular series. In conclusion, I would like to cast a few votes:

1. One vote for Steve Skroce as the regular penciler on X-MAN.
2. One vote for Ian Churchill as the regular penciler on CABLE.

Thank you for listening.

Kenneth W. Chin
81 Cowsett Green Dr.
Warwick, RI 02886

Kenneth, we like the way you vote. Feel free to cast your ballots anytime. Steve Skroce is our regular penciler on X-MAN, although next month we're giving him a breather to allow him time to gear up for the CABLE/X-MAN crossover. And Ian Churchill is CABLE's regular penciler whose work has been captivating fans for some time now. We advise anyone who hasn't seen it to check it out.

Illustration by Luke Ross

NEXT MONTH: THRENOLOGY'S GUT NATE WRAPPED AROUND HER FINGER



BUT WHO'S HOLDING THE STRINGS?
AND HOW EXACTLY ARE SINISTER'S MARAUDERS INVOLVED?
FIND OUT IN 30 DAYS!



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SM
AIR
ISLAND.

THE TESTING.

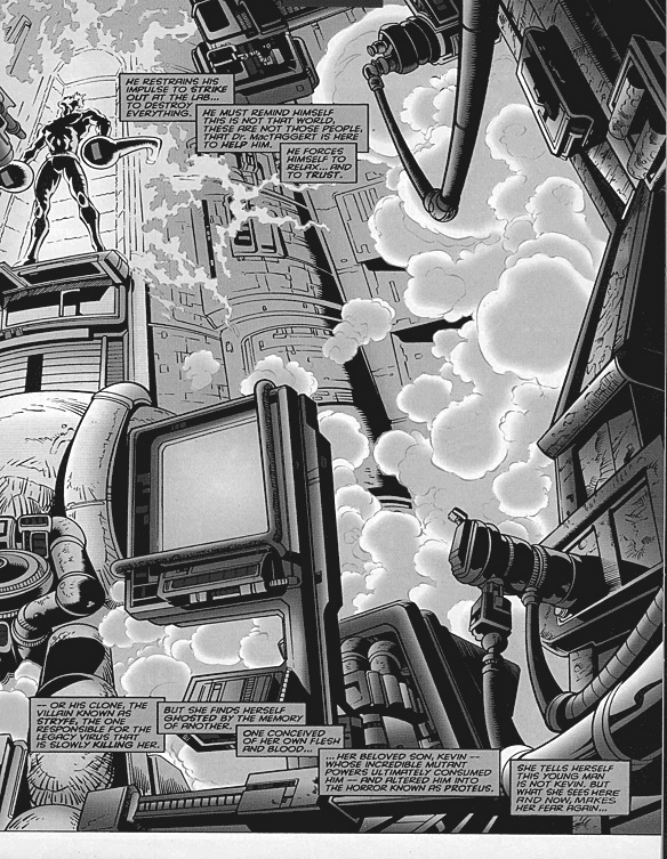
EXHAUSTIVE TESTING --
MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY
AND EMOTIONALLY
DRAINING ON ALL PARTIES.

FOR NATE, THE APPARATUS
REMINDS HIM OF THE SLAVE
PENS WHICH HELD HIM CAPTIVE
FOR ALMOST HIS ENTIRE LIFE --
ON A WORLD DOMINATED BY
CRUELTY AND THE HARSH
DICTUMS OF THE BEING KNOWN
AS APOCALYPSE.

"ALL RIGHT,
LAD -- THAT'S
ENOUGH, YE
CAN COME
DOWN
NOW."

FOR Dr. MacTAGGERT --
SHE CONFRONTS AN UNKNOWN
BEING.

ALTHOUGH HIS BIOSIGNATURE IS
SO CLOSE TO THE MUTANT KNOWN
AS CABLE, SHE HAS TO BELIEVE
CHARLES XAVIER'S ASSURANCES...
THIS IS NOT CABLE --



HE RESTRAINS HIS
IMPULSE TO STRIKE
OUT AT THE LAB...
TO DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

HE MUST REMIND HIMSELF
THIS IS NOT THAT WORLD.
THESE ARE NOT THOSE PEOPLE.
THAT IS: MCTAGGERT IS HERE
TO HELP HIM.

HE FORCES
HIMSELF TO
RELAX... AND
TO TRUST.

-- OR HIS CLONE, THE
VILLAIN KNOWN AS
STRIFE, THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
LEGACY VIRUS THAT IS
SLOWLY KILLING HER.

BUT SHE FINDS HERSELF
GHOSTED BY THE MEMORY
OF ANOTHER.

ONE CONCEIVED
OF HER OWN FLESH
AND BLOOD...

... HER BELOVED SON, KEVIN --
WHOSE INCREDIBLE MUTANT
POWERS ULTIMATELY CONSUMED
HIM -- AND ALTERED HIM INTO
THE HORROR KNOWN AS PROTEUS.

SHE TELLS HERSELF
THIS YOUNG MAN
IS NOT KEVIN. BUT
WHAT SHE SEES HERE
AND NOW, MAKES
HER FEAR AGAIN...



UIR
ISLAND.

THE TESTING.

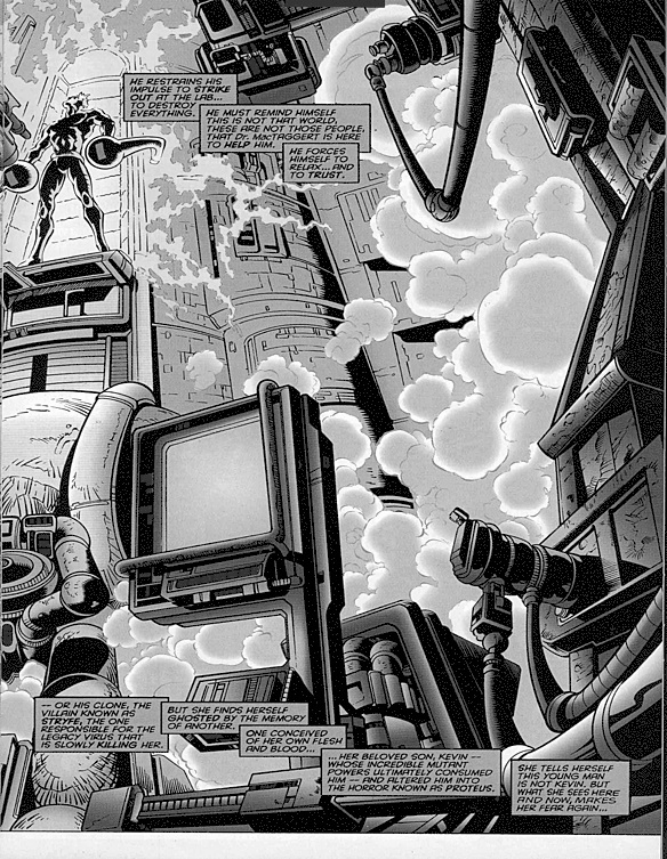
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